

UFO

AFRINEWS



No.2 June 1989

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: The Editor
P O Box MP 49
Mount Pleasant
HARARE
Zimbabwe
Africa



U F O A F R I N E W S

No. 2

Editor:	Cynthia Hind
Asst Editor:	Maria Sullivan
Correspondents:	Prier Wintle, David Powell (South Africa)
	Nathan Middeldorf, C J Rouse (Zimbabwe)
	Chris Ptaszynski (Gt Britain)
Circulation:	UFO AFRINEWS, P O Box MP49 Mt Pleasant, Harare, ZIMBABWE AFRICA
Price:	Z\$4.50/R5.00/US\$4.00/BE2.00 (including postage)

C O N T E N T S

EDITORIAL	1
NEW CASE REPORTS	2
LEARNING HOW TO BE A UFO INVESTIGATOR	10
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	13
UNUSUAL SHAPES AND SIZES	16
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?	21
NEW CASE REPORTS (continued)	24
ODD POINTS TO PONDER	7, 32
BRIEF REPORTS OVER THE YEARS OF UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS	32
BOOK REVIEW - 'PHENOMENON'	35
IN CONCLUSION	39
NEW BOOKS WORTH BUYING	42

* * *

EDITORIAL

I was delighted at the response to the first edition of UFO AFRINEWS. It was really in the form of an experiment to know if people who were interested in UFOs would be interested in African UFOs. In other words, in UFOs from remote and faraway places as opposed to some rather parochial attitudes.

Well, I think that truly there is a universality to the UFO problem and the quest for understanding.

So, having established that, let me say that I am always astounded when I hear of great rivalry between the various UFO groups, perhaps where one is particularly critical of another or one group is critical of some of its members for leaning too far to the 'psychic' side, or ET theory, or some other hypothesis, unacceptable and probably not even understood. What a strange conglomeration of genes, emotions, empathizing agents we human beings are! Jealous when jealousy is not necessary; envious when envy should not be involved; barbed when our tongues could well be the subject of survey by some mutilating ET if we aren't careful! Surely the purpose of our investigations should be to 'pull together', however divergent our various opinions might be. It is healthy to disagree, to argue and even to laugh; there are bound to be the crazies, the weirdos, the absolutely 'beyond the fringe'. But if it weren't for them, by which yardstick could we really measure our sanity?

I'm not preaching; Heaven forbid that I have the right even though I might be old enough to do so. But I am being logical: surely the divergence of thought is the only way to find the true answer. So let there be Rendlesham forest, and ETs seen by a few, and the Nullaboor Plains controversy about a vehicle being lifted up and covered with ash, and perhaps the too hasty publication of the Gulf Breeze case.

(continued on p 12)

NEW CASE REPORTS

Since advertising in the press and appearing on radio, I have had responses from many people who had UFO experiences but who were not previously aware of where these could be reported.

Some of the cases go back many years, but if not recorded in UFO AFRINEWS, would never see the light of day. It is difficult, at this stage, to check on these reports and therefore they are recorded here without comments.

Because I do not have access to a computer at this stage (not easily obtainable in Zimbabwe and exorbitantly expensive!) it is my intention to name each case and give it a number for easy reference.

In UFO AFRINEWS I, there were several new cases discussed:

CASE 1 : Saucer-shaped Object in Mozambique,
December, 1968

CASE 2 : Rocket over Cape Town
November, 1980

CASE 3 : The 'Whistling' Case, Cape,
May, 1982

I am not recording the Abduction cases separately, as these will all come under the heading of 'Abductions' since I am not sure at the moment if these are true cases of UFOs, or an altered state of consciousness on the part of the witness.

CASE 4 : Silver Object over Ntabazinduna, 1956

... On the morning in question (I seem to remember it was a Saturday although I could be wrong) my mother and I were about to drive into Bulawayo when a close friend of mine, Bryan Targett arrived and we invited him to accompany us.

As we were getting into the car I glanced upwards in an easterly direction and there to my astonishment was a silver object hovering low over Ntabazinduna, the flat-topped hill about two or three miles due east of our viewpoint. My first reaction was that it was an overhead electric wire shining in the bright sunlight, but I soon realized that there were no wires on that side as they were behind me. By this time my mother and Bryan had also seen it and our African gardener, who was working nearby, caught sight of it as well and exclaimed in the vernacular. The four of us just stood there gazing at it in amazement.

Then the idea of having a closer look occurred to me, so I dashed into the house in the hope of finding the binoculars; but as is ALWAYS the case, when you want something urgently you cannot find it. Disappointed and somewhat frustrated I rushed back and to my relief the object was still there. It seemed to be shimmering brighter now and it remained clearly visible for at least another five minutes or so. In all, I would say that we watched it for about fifteen minutes.

When it disappeared from view it did not zoom off as I would have expected, but instead it seemed to dissolve into the atmosphere, giving the impression that it had passed into another dimension. This is the only way I can describe it.

In retrospect I saw it as being saucer shaped, but Bryan said it appeared to him to be cylindrical. My mother agreed with me.

Unfortunately it was too far away to detect any real detail, but I am almost certain that I could see what looked like several portholes. This could have been my imagination, however. We could detect no sound, but if there was any we were probably too far away to hear it.

But the story does not end there, as there was an interesting sequel about a year later.

In July of 1957 I had the good fortune to be aboard the liner 'Southern Cross' on a round-the-world cruise.

As had become my practice, I usually relaxed on my bunk after a good lunch, sometimes doing a little reading prior to taking a nap in preparation for the evening's entertainment. On this particular day (somewhere in mid-Pacific) I found an article in a Reader's Digest concerning Flying Saucers. Imagine my surprise when I read that a UFO had been sighted "over a flat-topped hill called Ntabazinduna near Bulawayo in Southern Rhodesia"! The date was given but although I could not say with absolute certainty that it was the date of our own sighting, I was able to deduce that it more than likely was one and the same. Obviously someone else had also seen it and had reported it.

According to one of my workmates, you mention this sighting in another book, so perhaps you would be kind enough to give me the date from your records?

* * *

CASE 5 : Travelling Car, Worcester-Beaufort West,
1952/53

DG, now resident in Harare, Zimbabwe, was living in Worcester, Cape, in South Africa at the time. He was part of a bowls team entered in a weekend tournament at Beaufort West, playing for the Karoo Cup.

On the Friday after work (about 5 pm) four bowlers left on their journey: George A, John R, Charles C, and DG himself. * It is a 357 km trip and they stopped off at Laingsburg for coffee and a snack. About 20 kms outside Laingsburg, DG was dozing when he was nudged awake by Charles who pointed out of the window.

"I saw what appeared to be a glowing green ball of a misty substance a couple of metres to the side of the car." It appeared to be hovering as they passed.

* Names held by the Editor

A few moments later it came up from behind; first the interior of the car lit up with a greenish glow, then it moved over to the front. As it passed the car, the engine cut out and it stopped.

George re-started the motor when the object was about 200 metres in front, and they drove on. The object then went into reverse, and again the engine cut out. They climbed out to look at it.

DG goes on: "The object had then moved to the left, remaining stationary about 400 metres away. It appeared to us (and we discussed this) to be about the size of a large tractor wheel, but I was only able to see a dim, somewhat circular shape through what seemed to be a brightly glowing mist around it. We had no camera so could not attempt a photograph, and decided to move on. George was leaning against the car and said he felt unwell and his eyes hurt. He had looked right into the light when it flew over the car when he was driving.

While we were getting into the car, the object shot away rapidly, almost vertically, and vanished.

At Beaufort West, where we arrived late, the hotel manager hunted up a chemist to get something for George's eyes which were now swollen and sore. The other three of us had no after-effects.

We signed a statement and sent it in to the Cape Times but received no acknowledgement. The incident was briefly written up in the local Worcester paper. No one else at Beaufort West - as far as we could ascertain - saw anything."

COMMENTS :

- a) The Karroo is a large, mainly arid area of South Africa where numerous UFO sightings have taken place, e.g. Danie van Graan's case, the Rosmead Tennis Court case, and numerous vehicle interference cases.
- b) Damage to eyes and an 'after-effect' illness, usually with nausea, are evident.

- c) The hovering of the object, movement forwards and backwards, marks this as an unknown, as opposed to a meteorite or other identifiable natural phenomena.
- d) Typical reaction of the press, ignoring the report and thus, in a way, undermining the confidence of the witnesses.

* * *

Further Report on

CASE 2 : "ROCKET" OVER CAPE TOWN

J S of Cape Town had a very positive response to the report of his sighting included in UFO AFRINEWS I (p 23).

He makes several important points, and we have précised these for those interested in the case. Thus far, he has not yet undergone successful regressive hypnosis, mainly in order to obtain the letters and numbers displayed on the missile-type object he observed in November 1980. An attempt at regression was made last year with one of the best known hypnotists in the Cape area. However, the gentleman in question was a total sceptic as far as UFOs are concerned and conversed with J S for a half hour prior to the session, when his disbelief was quite evident. Needless to say, the session was a failure!

However, J S is willing to try again, and a second hypnotist has agreed to undertake the regression, probably in June of this year. Further reports will follow.

J S is quite convinced that what he saw was not an experimental plane (suggested by the investigator). He says : "What I saw was very real and very close to the ground. There were definitely no wings, no windows or doors visible."

The object appeared totally sealed, J S says.

He felt strongly that no-one was on board, but that the craft was being controlled from a distance. He maintains that if there were people in control, the object would not have moved so 'mechanically'.

J S also drew attention to the physical outline of the object. "It was very similar to the drawing in UFO AFRINEWS I (p 2, Fig 1)." However, the nose cone was not dark; the nose cone was not curved, but sharp.

There were no portholes. The body was not silverish in colour - it was white - and the back end was not visible due to the heavy flame; the back was a straight line, with the flame in a 'vee' formation. *

Although unidentified, J S's report is a factual report (despite our being unable to trace the 17-year old witness).

If it is an experimental USA craft, perhaps with identification of the lettering we may be able to establish its identity. If not, it will remain an intriguing and strange incident of some 'alien' intelligence trying to con us into believing that the USA is doing something it shouldn't.

And why should they do that?

* * *

ODD POINTS TO PONDER

Clifford Muchena (La Rochelle case), on being asked about the entities that confronted him, said he thought they were his ancestors, come to visit.

"How can that be?" Cynthia Hind pointed out. "Your ancestors wore furs and skins, but these 'men' were wearing silver coveralls."

"Yes, I know that", Clifford replied, "but times change....."

* Illustrated on p 19

CASE 6 : AN EXTENSION OF LA ROCHELLE?

9 kms from Mutare, Zimbabwe. August 1981

Zimbabwe is a small country in terms of international population (approx 8 000 000). Thus, when something happens, most people will hear about it ; and it was as a result of this 'bush telephone' that I was able to take the following statement from Mr Jakob Niewergelt.

For those who are not aware of the La Rochelle case, let me give a brief summary: August 15th, 1981 was a dull, overcast day. When 20 workers returned to the estate at about 1800 hours that evening, they were shocked to see a one-metre diameter ball of fire bounce across the sweeping lawns in front of them. This then moved to the buildings in the background, 'climbed' up the wall of a three-storey observation tower and burst into flames.

Clifford Muchena, the foreman of the group, ran to a warning bell placed at the side of the house and rang for one of the supervisors to come to the emergency. But at this stage the flames appeared to gather themselves back into a ball, came down the tower wall past Clifford and rushed into a small building known as 'The Fantasy', where it burst into flames a second time.

Clifford was then suddenly aware of three figures outside the Fantasy, apparently watching the flames inside. He assumed one of them was his supervisor, Andrew Connolly, and called him by name. Slowly, the three figures turned around and Clifford was blinded by the light emanating from their heads. At the same time, some 'power' or paralysis struck him and he fell to the ground; in his fear, he turned away from the figures.

When he no longer saw any light, he was able to crawl away quickly and, looking back, saw that the night was black and empty.

There were other witnesses and other statements, but this suffices to give an overall picture of what happened.

Jakob Niewergelt cannot recall the exact date of his experience but does know that "it was about the same time as the La Rochelle report", although because of weather differences, obviously not the same day. I estimate that it was probably a week-day following Saturday 15th August, because the La Rochelle incident was fresh in people's minds, and the sawmills are not operational at the weekends.

Niewergelt manages a sawmill in Mutare, 9 kms from La Rochelle. The sawmill is well equipped with machinery; one piece of machinery is a radial arm saw outside the factory walls. On this day in 1981, at about 10 am, he walked past the saw on his way to the office for a cup of tea. The machine was running perfectly. Half-way through tea, he says, "there was a brilliant white flash in the sky." He could not say how far away, but very high up -- "a tiny, white flash lasting a fraction of a second."

He first thought it was the flashing of one of the neon lights in the office but realised it was nothing like that; he felt it was something extraordinary, "a white point in the sky so bright that it hit the eyes even without looking up."

A workmate in the office thought it might have been an explosion but this was not the case. The clerk sitting nearby had also been aware of something flashing, although he had not seen exactly what it was. Nobody in the office had any idea of what it could have been.

Then the African worker on the radial arm saw ran into the office to say that the saw had stopped. Jakob went outside but could not move the saw or the belt. Together the men unbolted the 20 hp motor to release the tension on the belt and Jakob checked for signs of jamming but found none; the saw ran perfectly.

The motor, however, would not move at all, even though it was cool and not overheated.

When Jakob dismantled the motor to search for the cause of the breakdown, he found that the solder on the armature had melted and fallen into the coil, immobilising the motor. As he was a mechanical engineer and not familiar with electrical workings, he asked the electrical engineers to look at the motor. They did so but could not explain the breakdown.

Jakob says; "When I told them that at the same time as this happened there were a lot of stories going around Mutare about Flying Saucers, the electrical engineers just shook their heads..." oh well, Flying Saucers!!!" But they had no explanation for the breakdown.

Jakob Niewergelt still has the motor, in the same condition as it was that day. He has offered to take pictures of the damage. The motor, it was emphasised, did not just run down; it stopped instantly. The radial arm saw was the only motor outside the sawmill building; all motors inside were not affected by the flash.

The weather was fine, with a beautifully clear blue sky and no signs of cloud or lightning. There was nothing to explain how the motor could have stopped the way it did.

LEARNING HOW TO BE A UFO INVESTIGATOR

Not all of us can be highly qualified astronomers, but at least we can be reasonably well versed in the basic facts of the skies above us.

I remember in England, going outside on a summer evening, when the sky had already darkened. Hardly a star was to be seen! And in the United States it was even worse; mild spring skies totally obscured by pollutants.

So we are lucky indeed in Africa. Unless the moon is full, or on the way there, the skies usually provide an excellent view of many constellations, such as Orion's Belt and Sword, the Plough, Gemini and many others.

As an interested UFO observer, it is essential that you are able to place the major stars such as Sirius, Rigel, Capella, and so on. Also, that you are aware of the planets which are visible to the naked eye: Jupiter, Mars, Venus and Saturn.

The planets shine with a steady light whereas the stars twinkle merrily and appear to alter shape and give off changing colours: red, blue and green. This is caused by refraction and dispersion of their light as it shines through the thick unstable atmosphere of our planet.

Very often people report a flashing star because they can see it moving. This is known as autokinesis and occurs when a person stands in one position, staring at the star. The star then seems to dance about. Occasionally, thin clouds drifting in front of a star also give the impression of movement. Remember also that when driving in a car, especially when the road is full of twists and turns, a mistaken impression of movement is gained.

In the MUFON JOURNAL, which is issued monthly, Walter Webb gives a rundown on what to expect in the stars at night during that particular month. He will say, for instance, that on October 21st (at about 2.30 am) a meteor shower can be expected, at the rate of approximately 25 meteors per hour. Or he will pinpoint the bright planets, as in 1988 when Mars, the red planet, was the brightest it had been for 12 years.

Meteors, or 'shooting stars' are pieces of matter attracted by gravity and burn up in the friction caused by the Earth's atmosphere. Billions of meteors enter our atmosphere almost daily. Very few survive their flight or are ever recovered. In 1986 a meteor striking Earth caused a trembling, rattling of glass windows and a 'boom' in the Harare/Marondera/Rusape area of Zimbabwe. Its source was never discovered.

Some meteors are extremely bright, when they are called fireballs or bolides, and observers will believe that they have passed very close and landed nearby. They often appear as brilliant balls, discs, or elongated teardrops, and might even look like a plane crashing. They can be as large as the moon, in white, green, yellow, red or a combination of these colours. Some have a luminous tail and there is often a sonic boom. Some last only a second or two; others almost from horizon to horizon.

Comets, on the other hand, are masses of frozen gas and solid matter. Some are within our solar system and travel in elliptical orbits around our sun. Some come from vast distances. Their actual orbit is often unpredictable.

The moon, too, has come in for identification as a UFO but this is rare nowadays. However, its shape can be distorted by cloudy conditions or refraction. When checking a UFO night report, be sure to find out where the moon was positioned at the time.

(EDITORIAL -- continued from page 1)

It should stir the senses and exercise the mind and raise one's blood pressure: that's the healthy part of UFO research.

The unhealthy side is the ugliness it engenders in some people --- something we could well do without.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Graham Conway, DELTA, B.C. CANADA

I recently received a copy of your new magazine from DP in Pretoria. I found it most interesting reading and wish to make a few comments.

Regarding "Jenny" of Bulawayo (pp 13-16) and her people in 'blue': I was present when a lady who had made an abduction claim was regressed (at her request). The hypnotherapist was initially merely attempting to put the woman at ease before we 'explored' the alleged incident. After two trips into the past life experiences she was being returned to her 'comfort spot' (a beach area) when she suddenly looked up to her right and began to describe a tall, thin man who was dressed in a tight-fitting blue (skin diving-type) outfit. He was, she said, communicating with her telepathically and telling her not to be afraid. She was at this point trembling visibly and plainly ignoring the hypnotist's instructions to do as he requested.

For a variety of reasons we were never able to learn any more about who this person was, or where she encountered him.

You also mention a whistling noise that was heard by a group of witnesses although nothing was seen. In the MUFON JOURNAL's August 1988 issue, page 14 (Forty Years Ago), reference is made to that sound although an object was seen in this report. *

In another spot (in your publication) a lady mentions a buzzing sound. In issue 244 of the MUFON JOURNAL, on page 15 (Twenty Years Ago), a penetrating sound like a huge swarm of bees was heard.

I trust these small fragments may be of some help to you in your research. Keep up the good work!

* Object was about 30cm thick, 60 cm wide and circular.

(footnote cont.)

It had no windows, wires, or any visible appendages. It was a dull gray in colour, and when it hit the ground it made a slight clanking noise, like metal hitting metal. At the spot where the object landed investigators found an impression 60 cms in diameter.

* * * * *

From 'Hélène', England
16th January, 1989

... I truly feel that both the account offered by Jenny of Bulawayo and MB of Masvingo are highly structured dreams -- so real and so near the surface of sleep (or waking) that they appear to be from normal consciousness. I have them; I have experiences so real that I sometimes know I am dreaming (but would not realize this had I not read Seth * on the subject). It is as if I am awake (in my dreams) ... though at the same time I know that the dream world is quite real in its own way but lived in another 'dimension'. Jenny appears to have precognitive dreams of a high order and a remarkable memory for them. But as for MB, I should think the whole thing was sparked off from the discussion on Elizabeth Klarer, the first time.

It would be interesting to learn what led up to the second occasion. But to look at the craft and then be suddenly inside it ... then as suddenly out of it ... then later to go through a door which becomes the craft and then find yourself in bed ... these are dream sequences where things have no form (solidity) and can change at will.

* Seth is an 'out-of-the-body-entity' channelled by the late American author Jane Roberts in a series of books published in the 70s and 80s.

Very different from, say, Megan Quezet, where there was some solid evidence... or Janet in South Africa whose encounter has led to other events.....

COMMENT: I have used this letter because it reflects what I used to feel about these dream sequences until I read MISSING TIME and INTRUDERS and heard some of Budd Hopkins' abductees tell their stories. I have now come to the conclusion that we KNOW when we are dreaming and when we are having a 'strange' experience. There is a subtle difference which is extremely difficult to isolate, but is there nonetheless. How come we tell of our dreams using the word quite explicitly, but when we talk of these experiences we use a different tone of voice? It would be interesting to have a psychologist's viewpoint.

* * * * *

Extract from a letter from R W Heiden, Milwaukee, Wis., USA :

... Thank you for the first AFRINEWS which came in November. AFRINEWS is very good. Being the first issue, it has a lot of older material. Presumably future issues will stress current cases more, and I hope the phenomenon cooperates by continuing to provide material. I hope you do keep the African focus, without trying to convert it into an 'international journal'.

On pages 36-37 you were looking for another case with a particular kind of whistling noise. A suggestion: check the animal reaction catalogue serialized in FSR (for dates of issues, see Ron Story's Encyclopaedia). UFO sounds are often the UFO feature that animals react to, so there may be several cases of interest there.

UNUSUAL SHAPES AND SIZES

So many people, both those interested and those sceptical of UFOs keep asking me how many reports I receive per month, per year, and so on. Unfortunately I do not have accurate statistics. These reports are certainly influenced by the coverage of UFOs in the media.

In 1988, together with Zimbabwean broadcaster Jill Darke as producer, I wrote a series of eight programmes for the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation. As a result of that, a number of sightings came to light, most of which would never have been recorded had the witnesses not listened to the programmes.

I try to make a point of visiting the various centres in Zimbabwe at least once every year if I can, or once every two years, so that the citizens of my country at least can be kept informed of what is happening in the UFO world.

Nevertheless, I am positive that I am not reaching more than a very small percentage of the indigenous population, i.e. the people who live in remote bush areas where the news media do not reach. Perhaps one day word will get around that a) I am not a witch in disguise; b) that I am not in league with the devil, and c) that UFOs, whatever they are, are worth investigating.

One of the most intriguing UFO factors has been the various shapes reported. How varied they are, and how similar on many occasions.

Some recent cases brought to my attention illustrate clearly that we are dealing here with perception, position, objectivity, interpretation, visual effects (on the part of the witness) and perhaps personalised fantasy.

I would also like to make it clear that although I respect the anonymity of my informants, I am quite prepared to divulge identities and addresses to serious Ufologists who require this.

CASE 1. JG, of Chegutu, Zimbabwe

Date : July, 1986

"... That evening at about 9 pm, my father, who was on the balcony, called to me to come outside quickly. This I did, and looking up I saw the most weird thing. It's hard to explain the colours but it was in-between a shiny red-orange, blue -- all mixed together.

There seemed to be no sound at all, it just shot across the sky. I couldn't tell you if it was going fast or slow. It was similar to the shape of a sports car, with chains hanging from it.

It lasted for only about 10 seconds, then it was gone. Although it was high in the sky, it seemed quite large from where we were standing."

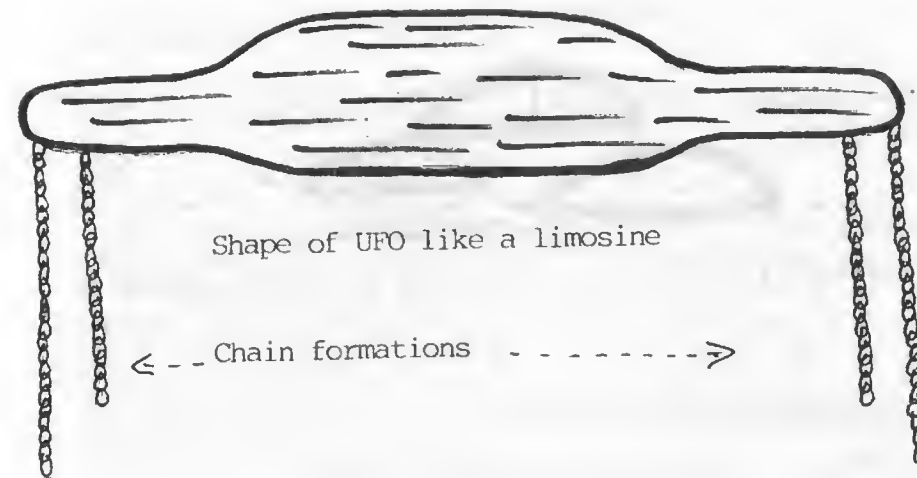


Illustration 1. Case 1.

CASE 2. O G, Randburg, Johannesburg, South AfricaDate : 1-2 March, 1985

The witness reports that he sighted three objects. They were tear-drop shaped and a misty silver in colour, leaving a silvery trail behind.

The objects travelled in a "V" formation and in a NE direction. The phenomenon lasted for about 30 seconds, during which the objects moved an estimated 5 kms. The sky was clear of cloud and no moon was visible. Stars were visible some distance behind the objects. They were an estimated 7-10 000 metres above ground level.

There was no aircraft sound.

No radar confirmation was obtained from nearby Lanseria Airport.

Misty-white colour



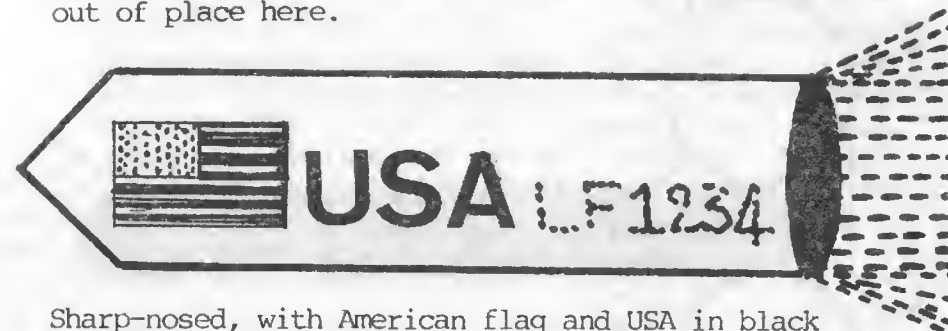
Silvery trail at back dissipated as objects passed by

Illustration 2. Case 2.CASE 3. J S, Cape Town, South AfricaDate : November, 1980, mid-afternoon

This case was fully reported in UFO AFRINEWS I. The subject has not yet responded to regressive hypnosis.

I will be in South Africa in June 1989 and am going to attempt a second hypnotic session with the witness. *

However, his report was so unusual and strange that I feel a drawing of his sighting would not be out of place here.



Sharp-nosed, with American flag and USA in black letters, plus 2 letters and 4 numbers of unknown designation. Flame at back was approx. 3-4 times the length of the body of the craft/missile.

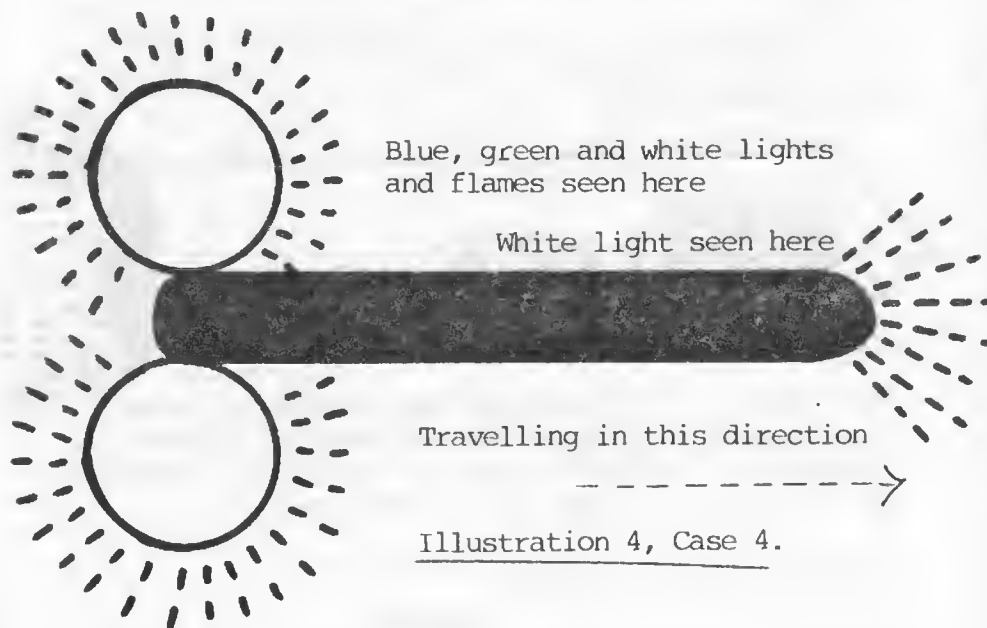
Illustration 3. Case 3.CASE 4. Report by T S F H, Centenary, ZimbabweDate : 14-15 April, 1987

On the night of 14 April, the African farm workers were up late attending a wake for a dead colleague.

At approximately 23.48 hours they observed a lozenge-shaped object moving across the night sky. There was no sound. The moon was bright. The object was high and travelling at a fast speed. The people had not been drinking as they are very respectful towards the dead.

* This will be reported in UFO AFRINEWS No. 3

The height was estimated at about that of a small plane, i.e. 3000 feet.



COMMENT :

One cannot help feeling that many of the objects seen could have a perfectly natural explanation, depending on the cultural background or perception of the witness involved.

Nevertheless, it is an important aspect of UFO identification and I feel that this record of shapes might prove invaluable in the future. It is my intention to maintain a special file on the drawings of UFOs sighted in Africa.

* * * * *

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Maria Sullivan

(Further speculation on UFO/Human interaction)

The answer might be: at this stage, anyone's guess is as good as anyone else's.

After more than 40 years of intensive speculation, nobody really knows what UFOs are, where they originate, or what their real purpose is. Several hypotheses have been put forward: a) they are extraterrestrial craft, manned by totally alien beings; b) they come from Earth but are manned by an unknown type of being; c) they come from our own future, by time travel; d) they come from other dimensions/realities; e) they come from a parallel world in the solar system, hidden by the sun or one of the larger planets; f) they are experimental craft from our own world and time, being tested for future use, crewed by some form of artificially created, vaguely human beings.

The hypothesis of extraterrestrial origin, once the only one accepted, is now doubted by some Ufologists, mainly scientists, who call it "the most suspect of hypotheses". More and more serious investigators are realising that this is a human phenomenon, i.e. how humans are reacting to what they think they are seeing, and how they are often guilty of misperception or failure to understand exactly what it is they are seeing.

On the other hand we cannot ignore the fact that thousands of people from all walks of life are seeing SOMETHING unexplainable, and feeling so strongly about it that they have to report it. And from the growing number of good, factual, well documented reports, something genuine is being recorded after all the exotic theories (and hoaxes) have been eliminated. Many people are now convinced there is a definite purpose behind the sightings and contacts, and there is an increasing suspicion that this purpose is genetic experimentation. As the numbers of so-called 'abduction cases' grow, most tell the same story of having genetic material forcibly taken from them.

So we can begin to build up a tentative scenario: wherever it is that these entities originate from, they appear to need human reproductive material; therefore one can postulate that they will use it for some genetic purpose. Let's accept that their own bodies are faulty and that they seek to improve their stock with our genes. Setting aside our fears and scruples, we might solve their problem if, instead of opposing them, we tried to co-operate with them. What would happen if we tried (perhaps by some form of communication) to offer them the ova and sperm they seem to need? (Goodness knows, we destroy enough of both!) Might this not create a definite link with them? I realise I am rushing in where angels fear to tread, but keeping in mind that this is a tentative scenario, let's look at the problem from their angle: they might be finding themselves forced to 'rape' us because of our revulsion and fear. If we, instead, willingly provided them with genetic components, would this not break down the barrier to communication and bring about a better understanding of their motivation? Such comprehension might also bring about a breakthrough into what might turn out to be a genuine acceleration in the evolution of a future species, i.e. a hybrid. Who knows whether such a concept might provide the beginning of an answer to the UFO mystery?

Like much else, the idea of such a transaction has been dealt with in Science Fiction and has produced some intriguing hypotheses. I consider serious SF writers to be Latter Day Prophets, not afraid to tackle any issue that might point the way to futures unimaginable by most of us today. Even simplistic films like VEE are exploring the idea that human evolution may take a totally unexpected turn with the advent of inter-species breeding -- and they are putting new ideas into our minds.

What if ... the next turn of the evolutionary spiral takes Earthman into a new dimension of existence, where it is essential to survival that we become something new, a species able to move freely about interplanetary, or even intergalactic space?

We suspect our days are numbered on this planet if we carry on at our present ever increasing rate of breeding, and our criminally extravagant use - and misuse - of the planet's available life-sustaining products and conditions. We talk glibly of going out into Space but fail to take into account that to do so would mean our having to change our physical and psychological make-up to enable us to survive the unknown dangers that certainly await us. Perhaps the UFO entities are forcing us into a new mold against our will because they know only too well that we cannot, by ourselves, do it in the required time ... and time is what we have very little of, left to our own devices. In which case, they may be hastening the process of evolution for us by trying to create a cross-fertilised species, and saving us from possible extinction!

As a species, humans have had all the time in the world to mutate; judging by results so far, we have been using up all that time with little to show for it. Looked at from the viewpoint of other and more advanced species, we may be the laggards of the galaxy! Now time is telescoping and something absolutely vital to future survival, in this or any other planet, is still missing from our human make-up. And so 'they', whoever they are, may be doing us what they consider a service.

We have done this ourselves with animals and plants. Domestication has changed their characteristics; we have forced their migration from unsuitable areas to those offering better conditions, to ensure their survival --- now it may be our turn to be at the receiving end of such treatment from outside, whether this is from a 'future' human race able to travel backwards into its 'past', or one from beyond our solar system. It is certainly feasible, once we look at our problem from a global standpoint.

There is no such thing as an insoluble problem; the solution is there, somewhere, and we normally find it by repeated trial and error.

Often Mother Nature gives us that little nudge needed to find the correct solution from among the many available. We still do not know what Nature herself is, nor how it works... Perhaps UFOs are part of that nudging process, bringing us into a parallel avenue, or into the fast lane leading to our future as a different, more evolved species of living being, ready to take our place among the competitors for the prize of becoming Cosmic Man.

It has taken more than 40 years to bring a small section of humanity to a grudging acceptance of the UFO phenomenon. Let us hope that it will take us less than that to realise that humanity is in dire need of transformation, both physical and psychological, to meet the fearsome challenges of the Galactic Age that is our destiny.

If UFOs and the entities travelling in them are not merely psycho-social phenomena, and if they can give us a push in the direction of selective breeding for space conditions, it will be well worth the traumatic physical and mental conditioning that some humans seem to be already undergoing at their hands.

* * * * *

CASE 7 : CE III in the Drakenstein Mountains
above Paarl, in the Cape, South Africa

I am indebted initially to Richard Heiden for bringing this case to my notice. But the case and its full investigation belongs to J J Benitez of Spain, and the follow-up thereof came about in a rather unusual way.

I had a phonecall last year from Ignacio Cabria, a well-known Spanish ufologist who has been involved with the UMMO case and is also co-editor of Cuadernos de Ufologia.

Cabria did the translation of some of the material, with further additions by M Sullivan. Here is a full report of the events that took place.

The witness, Henry (real name held by the Editor) tells the story :-

" I seem to recall that these events took place in the summer of 1951. At the time I worked for a contractor, a branch of the British Rheostatic Company. I lived with my wife in a small village about 35 kms from Cape Town, called Paarl. My wife had a small second-hand French car, ideal for the short trips in and out of the city. On this particular day, the car would not run and the battery was flat, due to not having been topped-up for some weeks.

That evening from 7 to 11 pm I was busy servicing the car. It was dark when I finished. I washed up and decided to leave the charging of the battery for the next day, but changed my mind. Near our house there was a steep slope and I decided to take the car there, drive around the area and thus recharge the battery.

I drove towards the mountain pass some 10-12 kms away (now called Du Toit's Kloof) in the Groote Drakenstein, a mountain close by. My idea was to go to a small plateau at the top, and return. This trip would be enough to recharge the battery.

At about 11.15 pm I reached the top of the mountain. There was practically no traffic along that route, and the small plateau was about 900 metres above sea level, extending to the foot of one of the large peaks of the Drakenstein. There was a moon that night and I remember the enormous shadow cast by the peak, leaving most of the plateau in darkness.

I was about to turn homewards when I saw the figure of a man with upraised arm, signalling me to stop. The man came out of the darkened area of a flat clearing, actually the base of the peak. I asked him what the matter was. He came up to the window and enquired: "Have you any water?"

I said I did not, except in the radiator. At that, the man seemed distressed and commented, "We are badly in need of water."

I saw he was upset about not getting water, so I pointed out that there was a small streamlet further along, crossing the path, and that I would drive him there. He asked, "Is it far, that stream?"

"No", I replied, "about half a kilometre. It's a mountain spring and the water is very good."

The man agreed to go with me. He spoke in English, with an odd accent. In South Africa there are all kinds of people making up the population... and nearly everyone speaks English, with different accents depending on their origins. That man's accent was really odd...

He got into the car and we set off towards the stream. On the way we hardly spoke. I asked him if he had a container for the water, and he said No. I suggested that an oil container I had in the boot would have to do. He agreed to this.

We reached the stream and, together, cleaned out the oil canister with sand and water, taking turns to rub the sand well in, and rinse it out. Finally, it was clean enough; we filled it with water, climbed back into the car and once again drove towards the spot where the man had originally been. I stopped some distance from the peak but the man pointed towards the darkness: "There... there, please", he said, giving me to understand that we should go nearer the wall of the peak.

When I drove into the shadowed area, once my eyes adapted to the darkness, I became aware of a strange object. It was some 100 metres off the road, in the darkened area of the plateau. It was large, about 10-15 metres in diameter; not very tall, it measured maybe 4 metres from the legs to the top. On the underside I saw a lighted opening with a ladder leading up to the interior. I stopped in astonishment.

The man invited me to climb the ladder. I will not deny that I was afraid, and stood still, like one who distrusts the evidence of his eyes. The man insisted and with a friendly gesture showed I was to go in.

Inside the object, which was circular, there were four other men, one of them lying down. My companion explained that they had had a slight accident and the man had been burned. When entering our atmosphere, one of the windows had cracked and the man had been hurt.

I told him I would like to get closer to the injured man, but he replied, "No, stay where you are."

So I stopped near the opening and looked around. I seemed to be in a circular room with windows all around; under these was a sort of seat extending round the wall. The room was high enough for a man to walk upright, except where it curved towards the windows. However, all the men were shorter than I; perhaps 1.50 or 1.60 metres tall.

In the middle of the room I spotted some levers, something like those in a railway signal box. They seemed to be about one metre in length, the tops ending in a sort of two-pronged forked handle, just like the hand brake in the old motorcars. From where I was, I could not see how many, but maybe eight, in two rows. They protruded from the interior of the object, below the floor. I could see the rectangular slits through which they protruded.

Behind the levers I could see some sort of table .. more like a console. I thought there might be some dials, some instrument panels, but saw nothing like that. This being my job, instrumentation engineering, I noticed every thing very clearly.

Another thing that surprised me... I saw no source of light anywhere, but there was light all around, seeming to shine out of the walls, ceiling, everywhere at the same time. This light was very bright.

The man with me put down the oil can where the other four were, and came back to where I was. They spoke not one word to one another; none of the others even turned round towards me when I entered the craft. They seemed to be doing something to the injured man, and had some 'things' in their hands as they moved round him, but I could not see what the things were, nor where they came from. Their garments had no pockets and there were no cupboards or any furniture... just the bare circular wall and all-round seat.

I asked the man if they needed a doctor, but he said no. He then asked if there was anything I wanted to know. As an instrument engineer, I was curious that there were no instrument panels, dials or navigation apparatus anywhere. I asked how the craft functioned. "Where are the engines?"

He replied that there were none. They navigated by means of another system. Pointing to the levers protruding from the floor, he said that by means of these the force of gravity was annulled and they lifted off.

Asked how they overcame the force of gravity, he said they used a very heavy fluid which circulated inside a tube, creating a magnetic effect. When I heard of a very heavy fluid, I thought of mercury.

The crewman explained that this fluid, circulating inside the tube, produced a result similar to electricity round a cable [coil?]. The result they obtained by this means was not exactly a magnetic force but the force of gravity. He went on: when the speed of the fluid equalled the speed of light, that stopped the magnetic force. I wanted to know how they could get up to such a speed with a fluid inside a tube. He replied that it was easy: a fluid is not compressible; when it enters a tube at one end, it immediately goes out at the other; when it goes out at that end it is already coming in at the other end. In this way, the relative speed is infinite. He insisted that they could easily get up to this speed by the use of the heavy fluid and some magnets available where they came from, but unobtainable on Earth.

I asked him where they came from. He pointed out of the window at the stars and said simply, "From there." Despite my wanting more detailed information, he only repeated "from there", pointing to the stars.

After some 15-20 minutes, he led me to the opening gently but firmly. I was so astounded by what had gone on that I did not even think of asking for something to serve as proof that I had really been involved in this fantastic adventure. I climbed down the ladder, got into my car, and sped off home."

[From another interview with Benitez, there is quite a bit more on the method of propulsion they use]

"He said that when overcoming the force of gravity the craft lifted off at an angle, never vertically. He said, "The force we generate is the same as electricity. Your problem is that you have not sufficiently proved this system yourselves."

He thought it odd that in our world, with so much technical knowledge, we did not know the system of propulsion used by them. I was taken aback when he referred to gyroscopes, saying: "This force has been developed in your world by means of gyroscopes. Beyond a certain number of revolutions there is control of gravity, and there is the possibility of sustaining this control permanently in the gyroscope, whenever we can have, for example, a cable (sic) passing without interruption through an instrument (sic). If instead of a cable, we have electricity, or the fluid, there would be an identical result."

"But where are the pumps?" I queried.

"We have none, but we have found some magnetic material which your world does not have, and we use this in our system. We can polarise this material into positive and negative poles. With this material, we overcome gravity. We use bars of the same polarity to get repulsion, and with bars of different polarities we get attraction."

He then explained that through these 'magnets' the craft could come to a stop in space, and remain that way, or flit about in any direction, but always rising at an angle of 45 degrees, never vertically."

During the 1977 interview with Benitez, 26 years after the above events, Henry said he recalled every single detail with total clarity. He even recalled seeing the landing gear under the craft, and noticing the slits in the undercarriage into which the landing gear would retract. They had been in the shape of a large 'H'. He was astonished when, years later, he saw the cover of a book picturing the same 'H' on the underside of a supposed UFO over Spain [This alleged photograph has been labelled a hoax by Spanish ufologists but one now wonders...]

During the interview, Henry was asked about the occupants of the craft. He said that apart from their slenderness and short stature, they seemed to him little different from human beings. He did vaguely notice that they were of a similar type: all had straight brown hair, were clean shaven, and looked about 30 years old.

The man with him, however, looked about 40. All had long-fingered, slender hands, like women's hands, and looked almost effeminate, but otherwise were totally normal and human, though perhaps with rather protruding foreheads. They were all dressed alike in a sort of beige laboratory coat, or smock, belted at the waist and reaching to mid-calf. They wore trousers and shoes.

Only one crewman spoke; the others were absolutely silent throughout.

Asked during the interview what he had done subsequent to this strange adventure, Henry said he had driven home and fallen into a deep sleep. The next morning, thinking it might all have been a vivid dream, he had gone back to the plateau. There was no craft there, though he thought he could make out four faint marks in the hard ground.

But when he looked into the boot of the car, the oil container was gone. He was convinced, then, that it had been no dream -- it had been the strangest and most fantastic 45 minutes of his life.

In January of this year (1989) I went down to Cape Town on a visit and thought it would be a good idea to check out Henry's story as far as possible. On 22nd February Prier Wintle, Jane Sykes and I drove to Paarl, some 35 kms from Cape Town. At the Municipal Land Registry Office we found two farms listed under Leliefontein (the name of Henry's farm). There had originally been one large farm which was then subdivided into two. The young lady who helped us there, Marlene Vermeulen, went right back to 1951 but could find no registration in Henry's name for either of the two farms. However, it is quite possible that it was registered in the name of his Company, or a private company that he himself formed. I have written to him for verification of this.

We then drove to the smaller of the two farms (the one most likely to have been occupied by Henry and his wife), and took pictures of the homestead.

None of the occupants remembered Henry but this is not unlikely as they were young and 1951 is a long time ago. I have sent the photographs to Henry for confirmation as to which farm he occupied.

We then proceeded along the old main road beside the Groote Drakenstein mountain until we reached the plateau at the top.

Henry had said the plateau was 12-15 kms from his farm. In fact, it was 13 kms away. Henry had also mentioned that the top of the pass was approx. 900 metres above sea level. When we reached the top, a large sign proclaimed that we were 820 metres above sea level. On the left-hand side at the top, there was a wide flattened area but this has now been fenced off parallel with the road. To the right of the road there was another flattened area, but not as flat as on the left-hand side. It started off level, then rose gradually to the steep side of the mountain, although none of us thought it extended for 100 metres, as Henry had estimated. I am returning in June this year for a more accurate assessment. However, the tall peak was there and with the moon behind it, this whole area would indeed have been thrown into deep shadow.

A few metres further on there was a gate and a narrow road leading to a mountain peak on the left-hand side of the road. This had a notice indicating that it was private property, but apart from this my car (Mazda 626) is large bodied and I would have been unable to turn on that narrow road.

About half-way up we observed a small stream passing under the road over a culvert and descending steeply into the valley. This was obviously the stream where Henry and the stranger had obtained the water.

We were unable to trace the firm for whom Henry had worked - the British Rheostatic Company - but again it was a long time ago and it might no longer be in existence. All these points I am going to follow up in June.

Obviously our team cannot prove or disprove Henry's story, but at least, we can verify the facts.

ODD POINTS TO PONDER

While investigating the CE III Case in the Drakenstein Mountains, Prier Wintle, Jane Sykes and I had stopped at the top of Du Toit's Kloof to survey the area and pinpoint the spot where Henry said the craft had been standing.

When we had come up the old mountain road (the new one passes through a magnificent tunnel but is a toll road and subject to R4 tax), we had to drive very slowly due to the heavy-vehicle traffic.

During our stop on the plateau for approximately 12 minutes, we all noticed that not one car or truck came by. All we could hear was the whistle of the wind and the quiet of the surrounding bush and scrub.

As soon as we started up to move on, the trucks and cars came whizzing by again!

BRIEF REPORTS OVER THE YEARS OF UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS

In all probability, these could be meteorites, bolides, satellites or other natural phenomena but at the time they were not identified.

Mtepatepa, Zimbabwe: November 8th, 1981

Mrs A S Carew saw an unidentified object travelling horizontally on a NE to SW course above the coffee lands of the farm in Mtepatepa area at 1800 hours. The speed was not as fast as a 'shooting star'. It was a very bright magnesium light. Distance up was deceptive, but the object appeared to be large and low. She cannot recall if it was conical or cylindrical but thinks it was the former.

She says, "As I watched, a similar smaller shape ejected from the front of the larger object. Then another and another. It lasted long enough for me to draw the attention of the other 4 persons with me to this, and the attention of some Africans who also witnessed the object.

Nothing was seen coming down to Earth but there were several explosions, later.

The Wattle Company, Nyanga Factory, Nyanga, Zimbabwe
23rd March, 1980, at about 1900 hours

Mr O P Martins reported: "I was going to my garage when I first noticed the light because of its brightness. On returning to the house, I again looked at it carefully. I then realised the sky was overcast particularly in this area, so I could not see any stars. I rushed to call some friends and picked up my binoculars.

The size of the object was about a quarter of the moon, I was quite far away but we all observed it through my powerful binoculars (16x50). We agreed it was not a helicopter, as there was no sound. The light seemed to shine upwards while stationary. Then someone noticed it was fading and observed at this stage, it appeared like a quarter moon with the darker side pointing down to Earth and what appeared like a glowing glass tube pointed skywards.

The brightness and fading occurred 3 or 4 times. The object remained in the same area but seemed to be going around in small circles.

By this time our guests and neighbours were watching too. At 1930 the object started to move westwards and due to obscuring trees, we soon lost sight of it. I quickly got into my car with a friend and drove to some high ground and we were able to see it enter some cloud.

The strange thing was that when it went into the clouds, although the light could not be seen, the clouds were lit up as if by a spotlight shining upwards, while below it was completely dark..."

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, 12th May 1980, reported by R G

"Around 1800 hours, my gardener knocked on the kitchen door and asked me, 'What is that in the sky?' I saw a bright object with a brilliant blue light to the left of it. It was a fat oval shape, i.e. not quite oval but neither completely circular.

The blue light appeared to be attached to it and was circular, the colour of an aquamarine gemstone shining from within.

The object was very low in the sky and in comparison, the stars appeared like pinheads.

After 10 minutes of neither sound nor movement, the object moved suddenly upwards for a short distance, then hovered again. It was definitely not a plane nor a helicopter.

I called frantically to my neighbour to come and witness this thing! The object became mobile again and passed slowly and directly over our heads.

It was flying low and even, at the same level until it was to my left, when it climbed suddenly for a short while and then shot straight upwards and completely disappeared.

When my neighbour came she only kept on asking, "What is it, what is it?"

The gardener later told me that he had observed the object for some time during the daylight hours. But he is a simple man and had not thought to call me earlier."

Harare, Zimbabwe: 31st December, 1974, approx. 2300 hours. Reported by Mrs N C.

'I was on my own and just before turning from the Enterprise Road into the Chisipite Shopping Centre, I noticed several cars had stopped on the side of the road, and people were looking upwards. I stopped too, and saw above the Chisipite shops, on the right-hand side, an enormous orange pulsating sphere hovering just above the buildings. It looked to be the size of a small house (it certainly looked enormous to me). It was completely silent, though shimmering and pulsating.

While I watched, it hovered quite still for about 10 minutes, then slowly and majestically moved over our heads towards a line of fir trees.

It rose slowly until it was well above the trees, then suddenly it took off and within seconds it became a small orange speck in the sky and then vanished, straight upwards.

After a while, we all drove off. One woman smiled at me and gave me a 'thumbs up' sign. I wonder if she ever got in touch with Cynthia Hind or whether anyone else reported this sighting at the time? I nearly did, but felt too shy."

[No one reported this matter until recently, and the only story I have is from Mrs N C herself. Ed]

* * * * *

BOOK REVIEW AND COMMENTARY

Prier Wintle

PHENOMENON -- edited by John Spencer and Hilary Evans.
Futura Books (Cash Sales Dept), P O Box
11, Falmouth, Cornwall TR10 9EN, U.K. (1988). £3.95

For the serious Ufologist this book is an undoubted 'must'. As a collection of articles representing virtually every well-thought-out point of view which has been arrived at, by researchers trying to come to grips with the UFO problem over the past 40 years, it is by far the best thing I have come across.

Essentially it is a British production, reflective of the approach of the British UFO Research Organisation (BUFORA), and several articles are careful to emphasize that in Britain, and in Europe generally, the Extraterrestrial (ET) hypothesis of UFO origins is by no means generally accepted, as it is in the US.

Nevertheless the US is well represented in the book by characteristic articles contributed by Budd Hopkins on abductions and John A Keel on the vital necessity of studying the witnesses themselves, while Kenneth W Behrendt provides an excellent paper from the ET point of view suggesting how spacecraft could operate as UFOs have been reported to operate, utilising projections of contemporary Earth technology.

The purely British contributions cover everything from history (the 'airships' of the 1890s) through contactees; how to judge the value of a photograph, the use of computers, the existence or otherwise of a government cover-up, and geophysical explanations, to highly sceptical discussion of landing traces by Maurizio Verga and the UFO State of Mind by Mark Moravec. Hilary Evans closes by stating the case for scepticism while John Spencer briefly presents that for scientific study.

I am not so sure I would recommend the book to complete newcomers to the subject.

Beginners will find PHENOMENON confusing; they will find that one article contradicts another; there is no overall guide to link all the articles together and show where it is all leading.

This is, of course, the actual condition in which Ufologists find themselves today, but they are sufficiently well hooked not to be worried by it.

So -- this is a book for Ufologists.

Firstly, I found the two articles (one by Jenny Randles in Britain and the other by Bill Chalker in Australia) on the government cover-up, very interesting. In Britain, government still refuses to release information. In Australia, as in the US, a Freedom of Information Act permits one to have access to some official files, though not to ones which may prejudice national security. Jenny Randles therefore has to rely on released American documents. Both researchers arrive at essentially the same conclusion; Randles puts it succinctly: 'It's a cover-up not of what is known but of what is not known.' It is a sad thought that perhaps some of those priceless photographs handed over to the authorities and never returned may not be in the process of careful study in some laboratory but are more probably genuinely lost.

Secondly, I must say that I read the articles on the value of computers with more than a little scepticism.

I am naturally not questioning their value for keeping membership records and building up a bibliographical data base, nor for statistical work and photographic image analysis. What I found I could not seriously accept was the UNICAT computers project of Dr Willy Smith. The basis from which it all starts, namely a quotation from Lord Kelvin, "When one can measure what we are speaking about, and express it in numbers, you know something about it. But when you cannot -- your knowledge is of a meagre and unsatisfactory kind", is suspect anyway. It simply is not true that numbers are more real than direct experience of the things they signify. In physics and other disciplines they have proved to be a vitally effective tool but they certainly are not the essence or even the measure of knowledge itself. The tendency to think they are can sometimes lead to the expression in numerical form of things which should not be so expressed and which become less comprehensible instead of more comprehensible in that form. UNICAT seems to me to be one such example. It began innocuously enough following a suggestion by the late Professor J Allen Hynek that lists should be kept of specific categories of experience reported by witnesses. All cases of electromagnetic interference with motor car engines should be listed, for instance, so that each new such case could be immediately compared with others to sort out details which might be important. UNICAT originally grew up like a library sorting catalogue under headings such as EM (electromagnetic interference), LR (lonely road), CR (seeing a craft). So far so good. Once having numbers of categories to juggle with, however, those concerned all too swiftly surrendered to the temptation to juggle. They began combining them and comparing the number of times one category occurred in combination with another or with two others. In the process they kept to their two-letter catalogue symbols in preference to their actual significance.

Of the three articles which deal specifically with the people who are witnesses, I found the one by Mark Moravec (Is There a UFO State of Mind?) to be mostly a rather arid list of psychology-textbook definitions of different states of consciousness with little or no relation to actual cases where witnesses had made reports. He does, it is true, refer to studies he has made of cases from the files of UFO Research New South Wales, and the Australian UFO Computer file, but only to say what percentage of these specified a psychological reaction. No details are given, and once again we are back in the world of mere numbers which I suggest is as illusory as the psychological states he lists.

By citing the actual cases she is dealing with, Cynthia Hind does bring us more vividly into personal contact with the subject we are studying. In her article UFOs Through Innocent Eyes she deals with three classes of innocent witnesses: children, black Africans and two South African (white) contactees. All three differ from each other and in each case we have to reach our own conclusion through our own judgement and understanding of what is reported and the person reporting it to us. There is no arbitrary yardstick which can be applied either to the witnesses or to what they say. What a child or unsophisticated African says may carry as much or more weight than a fully coherent report from an educated adult, even when they don't fully understand it themselves. The investigator must judge from individual cases, not from statistics.

John A Keel's article (The People Problem) stresses the psychic aspect and plays down not merely the ET hypothesis but the importance of practically every apparently objective object or happening reported. It is not simply a matter of misperception of natural phenomena nor of a misunderstood psychological state of the witness himself (as Mark Moravec would suggest). Something is actually producing the phenomena but these (including the entities reported) tend to take the form that we expect.

As he puts it, "Books have appeared about 'Star People' listing criteria by which they can be identified, so ... thousands of 'Star People' conforming to these criteria have appeared." He believes we are being manipulated, and may even have been so for millenia. Formerly we saw fairies; now we see UFO people. They work through our minds and perceptive senses. How can we discover the ultimate meaning of it all? Only "by approaching everything with the same thoroughness that military intelligence might use in collecting evidence to find a spy in the Pentagon."

Of all the articles in the book, his is likely to appear the most obscure to readers new to Ufology. Those who wish to know more should go to his full-length books, Operation Trojan Horse and The Eighth Tower.

Overall, not only should this book be in your collection, but it should be well underlined and read, not once but several times. For those who complain that we have not advanced beyond the 1947 'sighting stage' here is proof that indeed we have!

* * * * *

IN CONCLUSION

Cynthia Hind

Criticism is a commodity which is generously lavished on all those who investigate UFOs and whilst I am the first to agree that uncritical work is often inaccurate, sloppy and un-coordinated, I do feel that often, too, there is so much criticism that the basic truth of the story is almost completely lost.

Recently, the Gulf Breeze UFO in Florida, USA (MUFON JRNL Aug '88 No 244) is a case in point.

Brifly, this is a UFO sighted by an anonymous 'Mr Ed' and photographed by him on several occasions with a Polaroid camera. He was not the only witness, although his are the only pictures.

It seems, though, that his background is not as impeccable as it might be, and the possibility of a hoax is obviously evident, with seemingly several points to prove this. Nevertheless, they have not been proven and until such time - despite their alleged authenticity - aren't we being presumptuous in assuming fraud?

A few years back I was opposed to the way Hilary Evans (a Ufologist for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration!) handled the Broadhaven case in Wales, UK (1979). There was some good evidence, part of which was mishandled by various investigators, but on the whole it was one of the best British cases. However, a witness had been involved in a police matter where he was charged and convicted and served a prison sentence. On the basis of this, his evidence was thrown out with the dishwater. It is true that his story involved the teleportation of cattle and might very well have been questionable, but it was not discarded because of this. The other witnesses, some of whom were children, whose evidence was verified by their teacher Beth Morgan and accepted by the Headmaster, Llewellyn, was ignored; as was the evidence of several other reliable witnesses. I think the British were so busy denigrating the witnesses that they lost sight of the basic importance of this case.

So, it is true that one cannot be an investigator without acute critical faculties on one hand, but tolerance and understanding on the other.

Here in Africa, the same sort of criteria apply. In the Rosmead Tennis Court Affair (UFOs-AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS, Ch 13, p 126) a professor from Witwatersrand University was interviewed on television shortly after the happening. He was asked how he accounted for the trail of destruction across the tram lines of the tennis-court. He smiled in a superior way.

"Of course, it was a whirlwind", he said.

He did not once visit Rosmead, nor did he question a single witness.

He had not read a report on the overall findings, nor did he realise the extent of the report and the witnesses involved (police, army, schoolteachers). For years afterwards, I had to contend with his 'summing-up' of what had occurred in Rosmead - "It was a whirlwind, of course." Not taking into account the two days I spent there, talking to those involved, having discussions with the Chief of Police for the area ('the most puzzling case of my career'), corresponding with Harold Truter, the Headmaster of the school where the damage occurred, and the original witness to the destruction of the court, I had also spoken to all and sundry who could throw any light on the matter. I have been back to Rosmead since then, and all is normal: those who were never there still swear that it was a whirlwind, or lightning (on a cloudless, sunny day?!) and those who were involved know that it was something they will never understand.

It reminds me of the story of two jets from the Zimbabwean Air Force which chased an object moving from Bulawayo to Gweru (their Base). The Commander of the Air Force agreed that it was an unidentified object. However, when I subsequently discovered that the previous day a 40 metre weather balloon had been released by the French Space Agency from South Africa and had drifted into Zimbabwean air space, I notified the Air Force.

But the Commander would not accept my explanation. "My pilots know an unidentified when they see one", he told me!

You just can't win, can you?

The point is, where does one draw the line? And if an investigator is logical, truthful and reliable - even those without a scientific degree - at what point do you question the wisdom of his/her evidence?

NEW BOOKS WORTH BUYING

(This is in the opinion of your Editor, and does not necessarily reflect adversely on books not mentioned)

ABOVE TOP SECRET by Timothy Good. Published by Sidgwick & Jackson, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury, Way, London WC1A 2SG. Price £14.95

ABDUCTION by Jenny Randles. Published by Robert Hale, Clerkenwell Hse, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1V 0HT. Price £10.95

DIMENSIONS by Jacques Vallée. Published by Souvenir Press, 43 Great Russell St London WC1B 3PA. £12.95

INTRUDERS by Budd Hopkins. Published by Random House Inc. New York.

NIGHT SIEGE by Philip Imbrogno and Bob Pratt. Published by Ballantine Books, New York.

UFOs 1947-1987 by Hilary Evans and John Spencer. Published by Fortean Tones, 1 Shockbury Rd, East Ham, London E6 1AQ. Price £12.50

UNINVITED GUESTS by Richard Hall. Published by Aurora Press, P O Box 573 Santa Fé, New Mexico 87504. Price US\$9.00

Books available from :

Arcturus Book Service, P O Box 831383, Stone Mountain, GA 30083-0023, USA.

Lionel Beer, 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford St. London W1H 1bF

Excalibur Books, Rivenoak, 15 Rockport Rd, Craigavad, Holywood, Co. Down, Northern Ireland BT18 0DD.

Middle East Books, 11 Laurel Way, London N2H 8HR, U K
